

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 1992-110-C - ORDER NO. 2007-472  
JULY 3, 2007

IN RE: Dual Party Relay	) ORDER MAINTAINING ) MONTHLY ACCESS ) CHARGE AND ) APPROVING BUDGET
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for consideration of the June 12, 2007, letter with attachment from the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) which proposes a budget for the Dual Party Relay Service for fiscal year 2007-2008. (See Order Exhibit No. 1.) At the request of the Commission, Dawn Hipp of the ORS made a detailed presentation with regard to the proposed budget and answered questions of the Commission during the regular Commission meeting held on June 27, 2007. Because of the reasoning stated below, we approve the proposed budget as referenced in said materials, which funds program growth while maintaining the access line charge constant at \$0.15.


With regard to the monthly access charge, S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-2530(A) (Supp. 2006) states that the Commission may require all local exchange telephone companies operating in this State to impose a monthly charge not to exceed twenty-five (25) cents on all residential and business local exchange access facilities as necessary to fund the operation of the dual party relay system in South Carolina. The statute goes on

to state that the amount of the charge must be determined by the Commission based upon the amount of funding necessary to accomplish the purposes of the article and provide dual party telephone relay services on a continuous basis. ORS administers the funds. In keeping with Section 58-9-2530(A) (Supp. 2006) this Commission has approved a series of adjustments to the surcharge in the past.

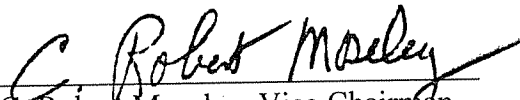
Currently the surcharge is \$0.15 per month per line. The proposed budget as described in ORS' June 12, 2006, materials would maintain this level, while allowing full funding for expansion as requested by each program area. Further, this budget provides for a collaborative outreach effort to increase awareness of each program area. We note that the total budget request of \$4,115,058 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 represents no increase over the amount approved for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget. Accordingly, we approve the budget request for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 as filed.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)

C. DUKES SCOTT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PO Box 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211



Phone: 803 / 37-0800  
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DAN FARNELL  
CHIEF OF STAFF

June 12, 2007

Mr. Charles Terreni  
Chief Clerk of the Commission  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Post Office Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: 2007-2008 Dual Party Funding

Dear Mr. Terreni:

The Office of Regulatory Staff, in conjunction with the TRS Advisory Committee, has evaluated and compiled the Dual Party Funding requirements for fiscal year 2007-2008. We respectfully request the SC Public Service Commission review and approve the budget request which includes expanded program services and no adjustments to the present \$0.15 access line charge. The ORS is available to brief the Commission on this information if necessary.

Sincerely,

C. Dukes Scott  
Executive Director

Enclosures

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## I. Introduction

The South Carolina General Assembly established the South Carolina Dual Party Relay Service to provide telephone access to persons who are hearing- or speech- impaired. The South Carolina Dual Party Relay Service outlined in S. C. Code Annotated Section 58-9-2520 may include the following items:

- 1) a statewide dual party relay service;
- 2) a service provider to provide relay service that handles all intrastate calls via telecommunications devices for the deaf;
- 3) a distribution system for all TTYs ; and
- 4) the establishment of procedures to implement and administer all aspects of the dual party relay service, the distribution of TTYs, and a funding mechanism to cover all associated costs.

The General Assembly also gave the South Carolina Public Service Commission (Commission) the authority to establish the telephone relay surcharge to fund the Dual Party Relay Service programs identified by the Commission. For fiscal year 2006-2007 this surcharge was set at \$0.15 per telephone access line.

## II. Dual Party Program Overview

Funded programs for the Dual Party Relay Fund for FY 2006-2007 include:

- ◆ SC TEDP Distribution Program
- ◆ SC TEDP Equipment Program
- ◆ Sprint Relay Center
- ◆ Real-time Closed Captioning of Local News and Emergency Broadcasts
- ◆ Closed Captioning of the General Assembly (including House, Senate, and selected ETV and Public Affairs programming)
- ◆ Closed Captioning of Instructional Programs from ETV and ITV
- ◆ Interpreters

Information specific to each program is provided by program area.

### 1. South Carolina Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (SC TEDP)

The SC TEDP distributes telecommunications equipment to South Carolina residents with qualifying disabilities at no cost. The program is currently offered as an outreach service of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB). As of April 2007, SC TEDP has distributed over 3,000 pieces of equipment to SC citizens.

TEDP Distribution FY06-07 Budget	\$572,780
TEDP Distribution FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$469,975*</u>
TEDP Distribution under budget	\$102,805

\*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized

## 2. South Carolina Telecommunications Equipment Program

This funding area provides the mechanism for procuring equipment for distribution through the SC TEDP. Several pieces of equipment were removed and/or replaced during FY06-07 to ensure updated technology was available to clients. The equipment offered at no-cost to South Carolina residents includes:

- ◆ Williams Sound Teletalker
- ◆ AM 6000 Alertmaster
- ◆ Pillow switch
- ◆ XL-25 voice-amplifying phone
- ◆ VCO phone
- ◆ Artificial larynx
- ◆ Teletypewriter or TTY
- ◆ Large Visual Display
- ◆ CapTel telephone
- ◆ Dynamo/Minimo
- ◆ PacMate (deaf/blind equipment)

TEDP Equipment FY06-07 Budget	\$559,837
TEDP Equipment FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$559,837*</u>
TEDP Equipment under budget	\$ 0

\*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized

## 3. Sprint Relay Center

Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) enable standard voice telephone users to talk to people who have difficulty hearing or speaking on the telephone. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules require telephone companies to provide TRS nationwide on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week basis, at no extra cost to callers. Conversations are relayed in real-time, and relay callers are not limited in the type, length, or nature of their calls. The current contractor, Sprint, reports that traditional TRS minutes have declined during the past year due to wireless technology and internet/video relay service availability. However, SC captioned telephone (CapTel) minutes of use have increased significantly since the program was adopted by the Commission in 2005.

The current contract for Relay services will expire in September 2007. ORS is preparing to release a request for proposal to procure relay services.

Sprint FY06-07 Budget	\$1,900,000
Sprint FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$1,538,922*</u>
Sprint under budget	\$ 361,078

\*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized

## 4. Real-time Closed Captioning of Local News and Emergency Broadcasts

The real-time closed captioning program provides the hearing-impaired community access to local news broadcasts and emergency broadcasts in South Carolina. At least one station in each of the four major media markets provides real-time closed-captioning during its local news broadcasts, along with pre-selected public affairs

programs and emergency news broadcasts. The stations currently used are WYFF in Greenville, WIS in Columbia, WBTW in Florence, and WCSC in Charleston.

This service is provided by the South Carolina Association for the Deaf, Inc. (SCAD) through a contract that runs on a month-to-month basis. ORS issued a Request for Proposal to provide this service in January 2007.

Real Time Closed Captioning FY06-07 Budget	\$810,000
Real Time Closed Captioning FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$776,932*</u>
Real Time Closed Captioning under budget	\$ 33,068
*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized	

#### 5. Captioning of Instructional Programs from ETV and ETV - ITV

The ETV and ETV-ITV captioning programs support FCC required captioning of instructional and public service programming aired statewide and in school classrooms.

ETV Closed Captioning FY06-07 Budget	\$133,741
ETV Closed Captioning FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$133,741*</u>
ETV Closed Captioning Distribution under budget	\$ 0
*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized	

#### 6. Captioning of the General Assembly (including House, Senate, Legislative Programming, Public Affairs Programming, and Special Public Events)

The purpose of the General Assembly captioning program is to provide closed-captioning services for the hard-of-hearing and deaf community for sessions of the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives and to provide Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART), or interpreter services, for committee meetings and public hearings. Recognizing that the General Assembly does not require these services year-round and that the duration of the daily meetings is impossible to forecast, the House and Senate continues their partnership with South Carolina Educational Television (ETV) to provide captioning for legislative programming, certain public service programming, and selected special public events broadcast by ETV.

General Assembly Closed Captioning FY06-07 Budget	\$175,000
General Assembly Closed Capt. FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$175,000*</u>
General Assembly Closed Capt. under budget	\$ 0
*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized	

#### 7. Interpreters

The interpreter program provides American Sign Language and CART services during the quarterly TRS Advisory Committee meetings and other TRS-related situations needing these services.

Interpreters FY06-07 Budget	\$3,700
Interpreters FY06-07 Anticipated Expenditures	<u>\$3,000*</u>
Interpreters under budget	\$ 700
*Based upon 10-month expenditures annualized	



### III. Dual Party Relay Program Budget and Financial History

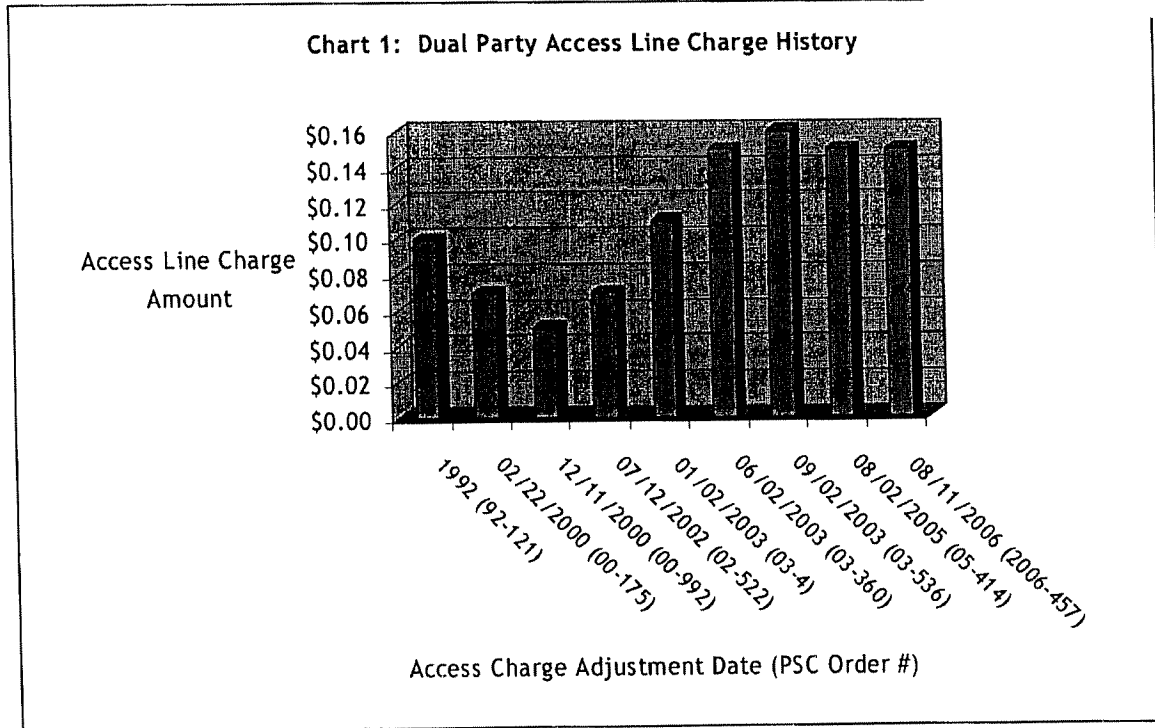
#### Budget and Access Lines Surcharge History

Listed below is the budget history of the Dual Party Relay Program since FY 2001-2002 along with a historical representation of the Dual Party Relay Surcharge

**Table 1. Dual Party Budgets 2001-2007**

Funded Program	FY 01/02	FY 02/03*	FY 03/04	FY 04/05	FY 05/06	FY 06/07
Sprint Relay	\$1,500,000		\$3,960,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000
Sprint (Outreach Program)				\$100,000		
Additional Sprint Contract Expense per FCC Order	\$257,000					
Instructional Closed Captioning (ETV)	\$300,000			\$235,000	\$133,741	\$133,741
SC General Assembly - Closed Captioning	\$536,000		\$530,000	\$155,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Real-Time Closed Captioning of TV Broadcasts	\$864,000		\$740,000	\$810,000	\$810,000	\$810,000
SC TEDP (Distribution)	\$355,767		\$380,000	\$472,870	\$521,483	\$572,780
SC TEDP (Equipment)	\$653,042		\$650,000	\$435,000	\$435,000	\$559,837
SC TEDP (Media Outreach)	\$300,000					
Interpreters				\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700
Assisted Technology Project	\$300,000					
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$5,065,809</b>		<b>\$6,260,000</b>	<b>\$4,111,570</b>	<b>\$3,978,924</b>	<b>\$4,155,058</b>

\*Information unavailable



#### FY 2006-2007 Financial Data

The Dual Party Relay Program began the fiscal year with a balance of:	\$1,566,642
Anticipated Revenue for FY06-07 based on 10-month revenues:	<u>\$3,782,743</u>
Total Available Funds	\$5,349,385

Anticipated Expenditures Based on 10-month expenditures annualized:	\$3,657,407
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Anticipated Carry-forward at end of FY 06-07:	\$1,691,978
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#### Access Line Information

The Dual Party Relay Program is funded by charging telephone carriers with access lines a surcharge on those lines each month. The historic number of access lines reported to the Dual Party Relay Program since FY04-05 is listed below in Table 2. It should be noted the increase in reported access lines in 2005-2006 is contributed to increased reporting activity by the telephone carriers. It appears SC has experienced a 1.14 % decline in access lines from 2005 to 2007.

Table 2. Dual Party Average Access Lines and Historic/Projected Program Revenue

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Monthly Reported Access Lines</b>	<b>Per Line Charge</b>	<b>Total Annual Revenue</b>
2004-2005	2,078,812	\$0.16	\$3,991,319
2005-2006	2,125,809	\$0.15	\$3,826,456
2006-2007 <sup>1</sup>	2,101,524	\$0.15	\$3,782,743

<sup>1</sup> 2006-2007 Access lines and revenue are based on projections using a 10-month average.

### 2007-2008 Revenue Projection

Table 3 details projected access lines and 2007-2008 program revenue. Projections are based on an annual decrease of 1.4% in access lines based on data from the 2007 FCC Wireline Competition Report. This gradual decline is corroborated by the month-to-month decline in reported access lines to the Dual Party Relay Program during FY06-07.

Table 3. Dual Party Average Access Lines and Projected Program Revenue

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Monthly Access Lines</b>	<b>Per Line Charge</b>	<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>
2007-2008	2,072,103	\$0.15	\$ 3,729,785
2008-2009	2,043,094	\$0.15	\$ 3,677,569
2009-2010	2,014,491	\$0.15	\$ 3,626,083

## **V. 2007-2008 Budget Request**

### Funds Available For FY07-08

Projected carry-forward at beginning of year:	\$1,691,978
Projected Revenue:	<u>\$3,729,785</u>
Total Cash Available	\$5, 421,763

Less Contingency*	<u>\$ 750,000</u>
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Amount Available for Funded Programs	<b>\$4, 671,763</b>
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\* Contingency represents approximately 2 months operating expense. This amount is set aside in case of decline in access lines, non-payment into the program by the telephone carriers, or an emergency program need.

### Budget Requests for FY07-08

In May 2007, the ORS collected and reviewed budget requests submitted by currently funded program areas. Table 4 provides a comparison between the FY06-07 approved budget and FY07-08 proposed budget and justification for program area increases.

Table 4. Budget Comparison and Justification

Funded Program	FY06/07 Budget	FY07/08 Request	Amount of Increase	Justification
SC TEDP (Distribution)	\$572,780	\$612,760	\$39,980	6.9% growth represents 3% cost of living increase for SCSDB employees, program awareness marketing and one-time program software upgrade to web-based platform.
SC TEDP (Equipment)	\$559,837	\$717,089	\$157,252	Reflects overall program growth and service expansion of 28% due to expanded outreach efforts, increased demand for CapTel equipment and change in qualified applicant pool for the Minimo and Dynamo.
Sprint Relay	\$1,900,000	\$1,693,509	\$(206,491)	
Real-Time Closed Captioning of TV Broadcasts	\$810,000	\$810,000	\$0	No increase projected for program
Instructional Closed Captioning (ETV)	\$133,741	\$138,000	\$4,259	3.2% increase due to FCC requirement to caption 70% of all programs produced prior to 1998
Collaborative Outreach Programming	\$0.00	\$5,000	\$5,000	Expense to produce a 30 minute ETV special program highlighting the Dual Party fund and program areas to raise awareness. ETV is donating production resources and cost of production.
SC General Assembly - Closed Captioning	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$0	No change to existing program
Interpreters	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$0	No change to existing program
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$4,155,058</b>	<b>\$4,115,058</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0% increase over FY06-07 Budget</b>

Discussion:

This budget request allows full funding for expansion as requested by each program area and detailed in the above table. In addition, this budget provides for a collaborative outreach effort to increase awareness of each program area.

Attachment A includes a copy the funding request submitted by program area.

The requested budget would allow the Dual Party Relay Surcharge to remain at \$0.15.

## VI. Multi-Year Budget Projection

Program Area	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
SC TEDP - Distribution Program**	\$612,760	\$628,398	\$659,817
SC TEDP - Equipment Program	\$717,089	\$717,089	\$717,089
Sprint Relay	\$1,693,509	\$1,693,509	\$1,693,509
Real-Time Closed Captioning	\$810,000	\$810,000	\$810,000
SC General Assembly Closed Captioning	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Instructional Closed Captioning	\$138,000	\$138,000	\$138,000
Collaborative Outreach	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Interpreters	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700
<b>Total Budget Request</b>	<b>\$4,155,058</b>	<b>\$4,165,696</b>	<b>\$4,197,115</b>
Contingency	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
<b>Total Funds Required</b>	<b>\$4,905,058</b>	<b>\$4,915,696</b>	<b>\$4,947,115</b>
Projected Revenue*	\$3,729,785	\$3,677,569	\$3,626,083
Projected Carry-forward	\$1,691,978	\$516,705	\$0
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$5,421,763</b>	<b>\$3,987,783</b>	<b>\$3,626,083</b>
<b>Budget Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$516,705</b>	<b>(\$721,422)</b>	<b>(\$1,321,032)</b>

\*Based on a 1.4 % annual decrease in access lines and \$0.15 per access line.

\*\* Based on 5% annual increase.

**Attachment A**

- I. Funding requests from Dual Party Program areas
  - A. SC TEDP Distribution Program
  - B. SC TEDP Equipment Program
  - C. Instructional Closed Captioning (ETV/ETV-ITV)

SC TEDP Distribution Program  
FY07-08 Budget Proposal

TEDP YEAR 5 (July 1 2007 - June 30, 2008)

BUDGET ITEMS	FY 07		FY08		DIFF.	Comments
	BUDGET		BUDGET			
1 PERSONNEL						
SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 216,708.00		\$ 225,537.00		\$ 8,829.00	3% cost of living as proposed by Legislators
2 FRINGE BENEFITS						
a. Actuals or no more 30.5%	\$ 66,096.00		\$ 68,790.00		\$ 2,694.00	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 282,804.00		\$ 294,327.00		\$ 11,523.00	annual progressive lease increase
3 OFFICE SPACE						
a. Supplies	\$ 19,729.00		\$ 20,700.00		\$ 971.00	
4 COMMUNICATIONS						
a. Supplies	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	
5 AWARENESS/PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM						
a. Supplies	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 7,000.00		\$ -	
6 EQUIPMENT						
a. Supplies	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00		\$ -	
7 EQUIPMENT						
a. Supplies	\$ 14,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ (4,000.00)	reduction - new computers purchased FY 07
8 MARKETING CONSULTANT						
a. Supplies	\$ -		\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	New line item - Program awareness (See Justification)
9 POSTAGE						
a. Routine Postage	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00		\$ -	
b. Certified Mail	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00		\$ -	
TOTAL POSTAGE	\$ 36,000.00		\$ 36,000.00		\$ -	
10 OTHER						
a. Interpreting Services	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00		\$ -	
b. Equipment Repair	\$ 9,500.00		\$ 9,500.00		\$ -	
c. Installers/Trainers	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00		\$ -	
d. Data Base Support Services	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 25,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	One time expense: CIO recommendation to upgrade system for compatibility to SCSDb web-based platform
e. Miscellaneous	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 7,000.00		\$ -	
TOTAL OTHER	\$ 81,500.00		\$ 96,500.00		\$ 15,000.00	
11 TRAVEL (Gen., Conferences, etc)	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 6,000.00		\$ (6,000.00)	reduction - based on FY07 actuals
12 Growth within overall program @ 5%	\$ 21,594.00		\$ 26,527.00		\$ 4,933.00	
SUBTOTAL	\$ 514,627.00		\$ 557,054.00		\$ 42,427.00	
13 OVERHEAD COSTS						
a. 10% of subtotal	\$ 51,463.00		\$ 55,706.00		\$ 4,243.00	
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 566,090.00		\$ 612,760.00		\$ 46,670.00	

SC TEDP Equipment Program  
FY07-08 Budget Proposal

Order Exhibit No. 1  
Docket No. 1992-110-C  
Order No. 2007-472  
July 3, 2007

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Vendor	Unit Name / Model	Price Per Unit	Annual Projected Distribution Quantity	Total Cost
CNI Systems	ULTRATEC -SUPER PRINT 4425 TTY	\$ 286.55	125	\$ 35,818.75
CNI Systems	ULTRATEC-SUPERPRINT PRO80 LARGE VISION DISPLAY	\$ 459.10	10	\$ 4,591.00
CNI Systems	ULTRATEC UNIPHONE 1140 VCO	\$ 221.00	50	\$ 11,050.00
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE-CLARITY DIALOGUE VCO	\$ 123.00	100	\$ 12,300.00
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE ALERTMASTER AM-100	\$ 48.40	75	\$ 3,630.00
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE ALERTMASTER AM-6000	\$ 106.15	325	\$ 34,498.75
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE PERSONAL SIGNALER AM-PX	\$ 28.27	75	\$ 2,120.25
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE SOUND TELETALKER	\$ 79.97	1900	\$ 151,943.00
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE DIALOGUE JV-35	\$ 73.70	175	\$ 12,897.50
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE DIALOGUE XL-25	\$ 49.50	20	\$ 990.00
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE P-300	\$ 16.88	35	\$ 590.80
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE RC-200	\$ 310.11	50	\$ 15,505.50
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE RC- AIR SWITCH	\$ 14.83	25	\$ 370.75
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE PS-SOC PILLOW SWITCH	\$ 12.56	25	\$ 314.00
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE HEADSET W/ MICROPHONE	\$ 14.69	35	\$ 514.15
CNI Systems	AMERIPHONE RC REMOTE CONTROL	\$ 14.30	10	\$ 143.00
CNI Systems	GRIFFIN LABORATORIES TRU-TONE ARTIFICIAL LARYNX	\$ 412.50	125	\$ 51,562.50
CNI Systems	FS TTY w/ PACMATE QX420 w/ 2 YEAR WARRANTY	\$ 5,470.00	2	\$ 10,940.00
CNI Systems	* FACE TO FACE (PACMATE)	\$ 1,400.00	0	\$ -
WCI, Inc.	CAPTEL PHONE	\$ 350.00	200	\$ 70,000.00
Harris Comm.	WIRELESS DOORBELL for Alertmaster System	\$ 32.00	35	\$ 1,120.00
Harris Comm.	EAR BUFF	\$ 2.95	320	\$ 944.00
DynaVox	DYNAMO	\$ 2,297.90	5	\$ 11,489.50
DynaVox	MINI MO	\$ 2,588.93	75	\$ 194,169.75
Learning Resources	TASH INFRARED PHONE for Dynamo	\$ 840.00	80	\$ 67,200.00
Silent Call Comm.	PHONE JACK DOUBLER ITEM # DP-2 Box of 100	\$ 150.00	10	\$ 1,500.00
	<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>		3887	<b>\$ 696,203.20</b>
				<b>\$ 20,886.10</b>
	<b>3% GROWTH</b>			<b>\$ 717,089.30</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 717,089.30</b>



**Dual Party Funding Request  
April 16, 2007**

**1) *Funding Area:* ETV Captioning**

**2) *Mission:***

To provide closed captioning for SC Public Television Programs, for SC Public School students and for Professional Staff Development and Training programs. As the State Emergency Communication System, we are required by the Governor and OEM to provide emergency information to the state for any statewide emergency and we are required by Federal mandate to caption any information that is provided orally.

***Goal:***

As a producer of quality television programs, ETV brings to bear all of its considerable talent and expertise in developing and producing programs that are of interest to the citizens of our State. While the viewing audience that is deaf or hard of hearing is a small one, our contention is that every South Carolinian should have equal access to our programming. In fact it is a federal mandate that all programs produced since 1998 be captioned and 30% per quarter of any programs that air that were produced prior to that date. Beginning Jan 1, 2008 70% of all programming produced prior to 1998 must air captioned. ETV has a tremendous library of programs that were produced prior to 1998 and over the past several years we have been working to identify programs in the library that have future potential for airing (such as profiles of state and national leaders, programs about different towns and cities, dramas, etc.) and to get these captioned. There is no money in our budget for this. Without the Dual Party Funding we would be out of compliance with a federal mandate and liable for fines.

Additionally, we are the producer for many staff development and in-school programs that are designed to meet specific curriculum needs identified by the State Dept. of Education. There is no federal mandate to provide funding for locally produced education products. But, we feel strongly that ETV was developed to provide equity in education and all of our programs should be available to both hearing and non-hearing students and teachers.

**3) *Funding area goals:***

Insure that all new programs produced in the FY 07-08 are captioned. Continue to evaluate already produced programs. Select legacy programs from the tape library to be captioned and start that process.

**4) *Budget priorities:***

Captioning of all statewide and regional programs that are produced by SCETV

Captioning all educational productions produced by ETV

Captioning identified past productions (i.e.; legacy) that may be aired over SCETV or another broadcast system to meet the federal mandate

Upgrade and/or replace equipment or software as needed  
Provide administrative assistance to captioning project  
Produce a video explaining what the Dual Party Fund is and highlighting the services provided through Dual Party Funding.

**5) Justification:**

We have a federal mandate to provide captioning for all new programs (those are identified as programs produced from Jan 1998 through the present) with the exception of those that air between 2:00 AM until 6:00 AM. As of Jan 1, 2008 we will be required to caption 70% of any programs produced prior to 1998. That % will increase with each successive year until 100% of programs are captioned.

ETV is a statewide network so programs that are produced at our regional stations fall under this mandate. While locally created and broadcast programs of local public interest are exempt, any program that is networked and carried on more than one station is not entitled to this exemption. The same criteria also apply to educational programming that ETV produces. As a statewide network we are not eligible for the following exemption: "Instructional programming that is locally produced by public television stations for use in grades K-12 and post-secondary schools."

It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to detail specific programs that need to be captioned. Each year ETV and SDE have new initiatives and new programs being produced and they have to be captioned. As we continue to search the vault for existing or legacy programs that have not been captioned, our estimate is based on what has been captioned in the past. This is not an exact science, though. The nature of the different types of programs ETV produces requires different captioning approaches:

- 1) Live Realtime Captioning --for teleconferences and programs that are aired live;
- 2) Live Display Captioning --for programs that are taped and air at a later date. The captioner can pre-type the program, check for typos and difficult names and then feed the captioning as the show is airing if there is adequate lead-time;
- 3) Pre-taped Off-line --After a program has been recorded, but before it is broadcast and/or reproduced, a script is created and edited by an offline caption editor. The script is then imported using captioning software. This software creates captions and then the captioner assigns video time codes to the captions. Captions are further edited to accommodate retention and comprehension of the information being relayed in the video. Another copy of the program, with the captions, is then recorded and becomes the air copy.

The vast majority of programs that are captioned from our tape library use the third method (i.e.; Pre-taped Off-line.) It is the most accurate and expensive. Dramas and highly produced programs are also done in this manner.

The biggest expense for our captioning project is hiring skilled personnel to do the typing and caption editing required. While ETV has encoding equipment we outsource this portion. For each ½ hour program that is captioned Live Display ETV spends \$85.25 (in equipment and personnel), for an hour program the amount is \$106.20. For a Pre-taped Off-Line the cost to ETV is \$155.32, for an hour program the cost is \$222.27. This is not funded through the Dual Party Fund. Outsourcing is the major expense ETV needs covered by this fund.

For 2007-2008 --We estimate captioning up to 150 legacy programs from ETV's tape vault --These will include profiles of state leaders and identified statewide programs. During the funerals of Senator Thurmond, Representative Spence and Governor Campbell, programs that from the vault were aired and many had already been captioned from earlier Dual Party Funding.

Estimated cost	\$ 95,000.00
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Realtime captioning for ITV Staff Development Teleconferences and Professional training (based on past years)

Estimated Cost	\$ 8,000.00
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New Instructional programs being produced in 2007-08 (This will be Pre-produced Off Line)

Estimated Cost	\$ 10,000.00
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Equipment & software upgrades and/or replacements to support— tape and/or DVDs

Estimated Cost	\$ 20,000.00
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Creation and management of Closed caption resource Web Site. This site will provide a list of ETV closed captioned programs and will include a comments and questions section. ETV staff will monitor this site to provide a summary of utilization.

Estimated costs	\$ 5,000.00
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Total Requested for 07-08	\$138,000.00
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\*\*\*\* Please note that many of our local programs, public affairs programs, cultural and minority programming are not covered under this grant, but are covered under the General Assembly Captioning category.

**6) Performance Measures:**

Since ETV is a statewide network all of our programs have to be captioned. There is no subscription policy or metering available to measure how many of our viewers are deaf or hard of hearing and use the captioning offered.

Performance measures that can be used:

- 1) Low number of complaints about captioning. To date we have received none;

- 2) Tallying complaints about lack of captioning through ETV's customer service representative;
- 3) Determine if fines have been levied for being out of compliance with the federal mandate;
- 4) Detail the number of captioned program hours aired that were produced prior to 1998
- 5) In order to make our target audience aware of closed captioned programs available, ETV will host a link to our website listing alphabetically by title all of the SCETV closed captioned programs from 1998 forward and updating them as legacy programs are added to the list. This site will include a comments and questions section. We will monitor this site to provide a summary of traffic.
- 6) SCETV will produce Interstitials for ETV and SCC to inform viewers about closed captioned programs produced and aired by ETV.
- 7) ETV intends to create a flyer about closed captioning programs that can be distributed at conferences, meetings, and by ETV staff at conferences and workshops that we conduct. This will send people to the web-site and will allow us to begin to know who our audience is and how responsive ETV is to this audience.

Submitted by:

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